ded rule comes into force from the date of its publication in the Gazette.

Procurement of uninfected blood

1369. SHRI N. E. BALARAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item captioned "Baby gets AIDS from infected blood" appearing in the "Indian Express" of the 24th July, 1990;

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to ensure that the blood procured from the blood banks are not infected; and

(c) whether any action was taken against this particular blood bank?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RASHEED MASOOD): (a) The Government has seen the news-item captioned 'Baby gets AIDS from infected blood' appeared in the Indian Express dated 24-07-1990.

(b) According to the report of western blot test, the baby was not found positive for HIV Antibodies.

However, to ensure safety in blood transfusion services, a zonalised system of blood testing for screening blood for HIV antibodies has been implemented in four metropolitan cities and similar arrangements are being extended to major cities, in a phased manner.

(c) Does not arise.

Fall in the production of some important drugs

1370. SHRI N. E. BALARAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to

(a) whether it is a fact that some of the drug manufacturers have stopped production of certain life saving drugs like Dapsone, Iouprofen; etc;

(b) if so, whether this is being done in order to pressurise Government to increase the prices of such drugs; and

(c) if so, what are the details the drugs of which the production has stopped and what is Governments reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) to (c) Government have no information in this regard.

Payment of interim relief to Bhopal gas tragedy victims

1371. SHRI N. E. BALARAM:

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government had transferred Rs. 360/- crores to Madhya Pradesh Government to disburse the interim relief of Rs. 200/- per month to each of the victims of Bhopal gas tragedy;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that the victims have not got the money so far; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) Government have sanctioned disbursement of an amount of Rs. 360/- crores for making payment of interim relief to all persons residing

wards of Bhopal at the time of the Bhopal Gas Leak Disaster in December, 1984, at the rate of Rs. 200/- per month.

(b) and (c) According to the information furnished by the Government of Madhya Pradesh, till 3rd August, 1990, accounts have been opened by banks for 1,35,458 beneficiaries.

Import of Paraxylene

1372. SHRI A.G. KULKARNI:

SHRI VISHWASRAO RAMRAO PATIL:

DR. BAPU KALDATE:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the exact capacity for which permission was granted to M/s. Reliance Industries Ltd. for the manufacture of paraxylene and whether the imported plant had the same capacity i.e., 50,000 tonnes;

(b) whether the production of paraxylene was permitted under clearance from MRTP and other similar provisions and whether it was permitted to sell or only for captive use;

(c) how much paraxylene was imported by various consumers like Bombay Dyeing, IPCL Baroda, and others during 1988-89 and 1989-90 and what was the customs duty and the international price at that point of time and final landed price; and

(d) whether the price fixed by the Cost Cell of Finance Ministry is on high side than what BICP recommended and whether is BICP working out fair selling price?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) and (b) Industrial licence of M/s. RIL was endorsed for 67,000 tonnes of paraxylene subject to certain conditions after following prescribed procedure.

(c) During 1988-89 PX was under OGL and users directly made the imports. IPCL, who was the canalising agency during 88-89 imported 42199 MT of PX for producers of DMT. Custom duty on PX which was 90% at the beginning of the year was lowered to 80% later on. International prices of PX have been fluctuating during the year and it ranged between US $ 795/T C&F in March 1989 to US $ 407/T in February, 1990. Accordingly, landed price also varied and the landed price for the last parcel imported by ICPL was around 14000/T.

(d) BICP has been asked to examine the fair selling price of indigenous paraxylene.

Procuring of orders by Engineering Projects India Ltd. and Engineers India Ltd.

1373. SHRI RAM AWADESH SINGH : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Engineering Projects India Ltd., and Engineers India Ltd. act as middlemen in the execution of heavy orders by giving the same on subcontract to other public and private sector manufacturers and structuring companies and earn profits of crores of rupees ;

(b) whether these companies have been allotted huge amount of work in Durgapur Modernisation Project and they have sublet the same to other public sectors companies like MAMC, HEC, BHEL etc., after getting heavy margin of profit ;

(c) whether the objective of such companies is to work as middle